

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A cover for a ~~substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical~~ stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end, the cover consisting essentially of:

~~a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body~~ sleeve having an outer wall extending between two opposing ends, ~~said body the sleeve~~ having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending ~~along said sleeve and through one of said the two opposing ends, said the interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-section cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusions, said cavity being adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement; and~~

said wherein the other opposing end of said the sleeve having features a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from ~~said body the outer shell of the sleeve.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method of encasing a stanchion, comprising the steps of:

providing a ~~sleeve having an elongated generally cylindrical body~~ sleeve with two opposing ends ~~and an interior cavity extending along said elongated body and through one end of said elongated body, and an outer wall;~~

one of the ends opening into the other of said ends having end terminating into a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from ~~said body the outer wall~~ without any discontinuities;

forming ~~said the interior cavity with a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said the opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusions; and, said interior chamber adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;~~

~~inserting the stanchion into said interior cavity; and~~

urging ~~said the sleeve~~ onto the stanchion ~~[[,]] through the open end to a desired position on the stanchion, to at least partially encase the stanchion.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The cover of claim 1, wherein: ~~A cover for a substantially rigid~~

~~elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing upper end, the cover comprising:~~

~~a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said body having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity being adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;~~

~~said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body; and~~

~~said the sleeve and said the dome top each being are molded from a plastic material and having to achieve a wall thickness; and said~~

~~the wall thickness of said the sleeve and said the wall thickness of said the dome top being are substantially the same.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly, comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated ~~generally cylindrical~~ stanchion having a lower end associated with ~~[[the]]~~ a ground surface and an opposing upper end defining a height;

~~a sleeve having~~ an elongated, generally cylindrical ~~body~~ sleeve having an outer wall extending generally between two opposing ends defining a length, said ~~body~~ sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending ~~along said sleeve and~~ through one of said the two opposing ends, said the interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular ~~cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends~~ cross-sections without any inwardly extending protrusions, ~~said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;~~

~~said the other opposing end of said the sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top;~~  
and

~~said the length of said the sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said the height of said the stanchion such that said the stanchion substantially fills said interior cavity when the sleeve is placed over the stanchion in slip-fit engagement.~~

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5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A stanchion and cover assembly, comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated ~~generally cylindrical~~ stanchion having a lower end associated with ~~[[the]]~~ a ground surface and an opposing upper end, ~~the stanchion having~~ defining a height;

~~a sleeve having~~ an elongated, generally cylindrical ~~body~~ sleeve having an outer wall extending generally between two opposing ends, ~~said body~~ the sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending ~~along said sleeve and~~ through one of ~~said~~ the two opposing ends, ~~said~~ the interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between ~~said~~ the two opposing ends, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement, said sleeve having a length;

~~said~~ the other opposing end of ~~said~~ the sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from ~~said body~~ the outer wall;

~~said~~ the length of ~~said~~ the sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than ~~said~~ the height of ~~said~~ the stanchion such that ~~said~~ the stanchion substantially fill ~~said~~ the interior cavity when the sleeve is placed over the stanchion in slip-fit engagement; and

~~said~~ the sleeve and ~~said~~ the dome top ~~each being~~ are molded from a plastic material ~~and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being to achieve a substantially the same consistent wall thickness.~~

7. (Canceled)

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